

METASWITCH FORUM 2014 KEYNOTE SPEAKERS



Jason Silva
Futurist and Host of National Geographic's "Brain Games"

Tuesday, May 13
9:30am – 10:15am
Technology: Accelerating Possibilities

"Part Timothy Leary, part Ray Kurzweil, and part Neo from 'The Matrix'..." Host of Nat Geo's Brain Games, which premiered to the highest premiere ratings in National Geographic's history, Jason Silva is an extraordinary new breed of philosopher who meshes philosophical wisdom of the ages with an infectious optimism for the future. Combining intriguing insights and a mastery of digital filmmaking, Jason delivers "philosophical shots of espresso" which unravel the incredible possibilities the future has to offer the human race. Called the "Timothy Leary of the Viral Video Age" by The Atlantic, Jason draws from his experiences as a television personality, a media artist, a filmmaker, and a technophilosopher to share his inspirational take on scientific and technological advancements. Using his series of short videos, which play as "movie trailers for ideas," Jason explores the co-evolution of humans and technology and have garnered over 2 million views. Jason's riveting on-stage delivery style, and his hyper-enthusiastic insights on creativity, innovation, technology, philosophy and the human condition are equally unique and mind-blowing. An "Idea DJ" and a visual poet, Jason is above all, an optimist and a curator of ideas, inspiration and awe.

From 2005 to 2011, Venezuela-born Silva was a presenter on Current TV, the Emmy-winning, independent cable network started by former U.S. Vice President Al Gore, where he hosted, wrote and produced more than 100 hours of original content. An active and prolific speaker, Jason has spoken at TEDGlobal, Google (three times), and keynoted events for Microsoft and IBM. He has also created videos for GE, Samsung, Adobe and Autodesk. He was a featured speaker at The Economist Ideas Festival, The Festival of Dangerous Ideas, the DLD Conference in Munich, The Singularity Summit, the PSFK Conference, Mexico's Ciudad De Las Ideas and Seattle's Interactive Conference. Jason has been featured in CBS News, The Atlantic, The Economist, Vanity Fair, Forbes, Wired, TED.com, iO9, Huffington Post, BigThink, and BrainPickings, among others and he was also featured as part of the Gap "Icons" campaign.



Michael D. Toplisek
Executive Vice President, Sales and Marketing EarthLink

Tuesday, May 13
10:15am – 10:45am
Customer Success Story – EarthLink

Wednesday, May 14
4:45pm – 5:15pm
Metaswitch – The Company, Our Customers, Your Future

Michael D. Toplisek serves as EarthLink's Executive Vice President of Sales and Marketing, where he leads the growth of the midmarket, enterprise, indirect and wholesale channels and directs the product development and management functions that drive EarthLink's go-to-market strategy.

Before joining EarthLink in 2012, served as President of Concentric Cloud Solutions, a XO Communications Company, where he successfully launched a high-growth IT Services product strategy. Toplisek has more than 20 years of progressive leadership experience in IT Infrastructure and the communications industry. In addition to launching the Cloud Solutions business for XO Communications, Toplisek previously served as the company's Chief Marketing Officer where he developed, implemented and helped execute a growth strategy for the Business Service division.

Prior to XO, Toplisek served as Senior Vice President Global Enterprise and Collaboration and Regional Vice President of Business Services for Global Crossing. He also held sales leadership positions at Frontier Communications and MCI Telecommunications.



Rob High
CTO and IBM Fellow, Watson Solutions, IBM Software Group IBM

Wednesday, May 14
8:45am – 9:30am
Cognitive Computing - The Brain on a Chip

Rob High is an IBM Fellow, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Watson Solutions, IBM Software Group. He has overall responsibility to drive Watson Solutions technical strategy and thought leadership. As a key member of the Watson Solutions Leadership team,

Rob works collaboratively with the Watson engineering, research, and development teams across IBM.

Prior to joining the Watson Solutions team, Rob was Chief Architect for the SOA Foundation and member of the IBM Academy of Technology, Rob championed an open industry architectural definition of the principles of business and IT alignment enabled by SOA and Business Process Optimization, as well as ensuring IBM's software and services portfolio is architecturally grounded to enable for efficient SOA-based solutions. This responsibility extended across the IBM software portfolio, including WebSphere, Rational, Tivoli, Lotus, and Information Management offerings.

Rob has 37 years of programming experience and has worked with distributed, object-oriented, component-based transaction monitors for the last 26 years, including SOMObject Server, Component Broker, and the WebSphere Application Server. Rob previously served as Chief Architect for the WebSphere foundation with architectural responsibility for the WebSphere Application Server and the related products integrated on that core runtime.



Shirley Bloomfield
Chief Executive Officer NTCA: The Rural Broadband Association

Wednesday, May 14
9:30am - 10:00am
Smart Technologies for Smart Rural Communities

Shirley Bloomfield is chief executive officer of NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association, the premier association representing nearly 900 independent, community-based telecommunications companies that are leading innovation in rural and small-town America. Under Bloomfield's leadership, in March 2013 NTCA (previously the National Telecommunications Cooperative Association) launched as a unified organization representing both commercial and cooperative telecommunications providers, initiating a new era for rural telecommunications. Bloomfield is a veteran of the telecommunications industry, having served in a variety of leadership roles since 1985. In addition to her more than 20 years of service to NTCA, Bloomfield also served for a brief time as senior vice president of federal relations for Qwest and vice president of federal relations for Verizon.